

(323) 881-2401

May 13, 2002

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

**STATUS OF BOUQUET FIRE**

Personnel were dispatched to a wildland fire on Saturday, May 11 at 10:32 a.m. in the area of Bouquet Canyon Road, one-half mile south of the Bouquet Reservoir, which is in the Angeles National Forest (ANF). Bouquet Canyon is located north of the City of Santa Clarita. The cause of the fire is unknown and currently under investigation.

At this time, the fire is 70% contained, and full containment is anticipated by 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14. A total of 4,500 acres have burned. The fire was very difficult to contain over the weekend due to steep topography and erratic winds. Over 150 residents and forest users were voluntarily evacuated from the canyon to Saugus High School. The evacuation center is now closed at this time. An outhouse and storage shed were lost; however, over 100 homes and other structures were saved.

At the height of the incident, there were twenty fire engines, two helicopters, two dozer teams, eight camp crews, three water tenders, and several overhead personnel on the scene assisting from Los Angeles County Fire Department. A total of 1,026 personnel from as far away as Alaska have been involved in fighting this fire.

A major percentage of the requested personnel and equipment utilized to assist (ANF) was requested via assistance for hire; therefore, we expect to receive reimbursement. Consequently, our overall cost will be minimal.

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We will keep you apprised of any major changes. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (323) 881-2401.

PMF:fc

c: David E. Janssen  
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